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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

May 28, 2010

0862

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. *Julius,* Genachowski:

We are writing to urge you to immediately begin a comprehensive inventory of the use of radio spectrum by non-federal government licensees and users under the Federal Communications Commission's jurisdiction.

Radio spectrum is a scarce, but valuable resource. As more and more of our communications take place using wireless technology, it is vitally important for us to understand how spectrum is allocated and used. Indeed, gaining a better understanding of how we use spectrum is the first step toward identifying how we can use this resource most efficiently to carry out critical government missions and to help bring more advanced communications services to consumers across the country.

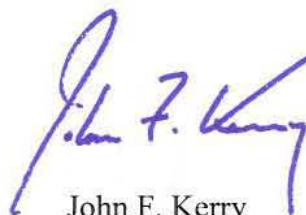
As you are aware, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, S. 649, is designed to provide Congress with a comprehensive view of how the nation's radio spectrum is being used by both federal government and non-federal government users. The bill would require a joint inventory of spectrum by the Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Unfortunately, despite our repeated attempts to pass the bill through the full Senate, we remain at a stalemate.

Given this impasse, we encourage you to expedite this important undertaking by conducting an inventory, consistent with the provisions of S. 649, of all non-federal government spectrum licensees and users. We encourage you to coordinate with the NTIA, in light of that agency's oversight of federal government spectrum users, in order to provide us a complete analysis of radio spectrum allocation and use. Such an inventory will be a positive first step in helping us formulate a sound policy for this Nation's future spectrum needs.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman



John F. Kerry
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Communications, Technology,
and the Internet



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 14, 2010

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to begin a comprehensive inventory of the use of spectrum by licensees and users under the Commission's jurisdiction. I agree that developing a complete survey of the nation's existing spectrum allocation, assignment, and utilization is imperative and Commission staff have begun work to create such an inventory.

Your leadership on spectrum policy is vital for America's competitiveness and global leadership in innovation and the Commission stands ready to be a resource to you and the Committee. As you are aware, wireless communications are increasingly essential to our economic success, and to addressing pressing national challenges such as education, health care, energy, and public safety. Unleashing spectrum will unleash investment and help build an enduring engine of job creation. President Obama recently acknowledged this fact, noting that: "[f]ew technological developments hold as much potential to enhance America's economic competitiveness, create jobs, and improve the quality of our lives as wireless high-speed access to the Internet."

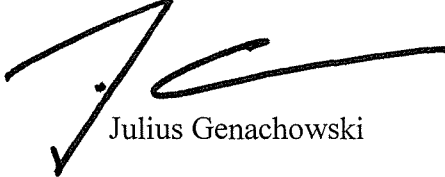
In order to move as expeditiously as possible in response to your request, I have already met with Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator Lawrence Strickling. We discussed our mutual commitment to spectrum policy that meets our nation's forward-looking needs. More specifically, we agreed to coordinate inter-governmental efforts to generate a comprehensive spectrum inventory.

At the Commission, we have conducted work that provides a foundation for a spectrum inventory. Concurrent with the publication of the National Broadband Plan in March, the agency launched a "Spectrum Dashboard" (<http://reboot.fcc.gov/reform/systems/spectrum-dashboard>) to provide the general public with access to information about various spectrum bands, including usage and licensee information, mapping and analysis tools, and the ability to browse and download data, all through a single web portal. With more than 125,000 hits since its launch, the Dashboard already has served to increase transparency significantly and provide valuable information to consumers and businesses.

On a broader level, we have established a Spectrum Task Force, a cross-agency working group charged with coordinating critical activities necessary to achieve our spectrum policy goals. We have also undertaken various targeted initiatives to remove barriers to using spectrum for wireless broadband and increase spectrum flexibility. This includes efforts to develop methods of measurement of spectrum utilization.

Taken together, these actions form the nucleus of a plan to increase transparency concerning spectrum allocation and utilization, and to expedite the availability of spectrum to support the growth of mobile broadband services. We share your goal of supporting exciting new opportunities in mobile – new networks, new devices, new competition, and new technologies. This, in turn, will create jobs, unleash investment, and promote economic growth. I look forward to working closely with both of you on this critical endeavor and, more generally, on ensuring that spectrum policy advances American global leadership in mobile broadband.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 14, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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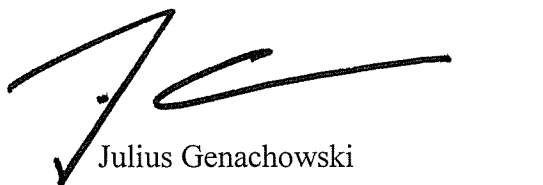
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Genachowski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julius Genachowski